

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 2739 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO GENEVA USUN 03 MAY 77

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ECLA, EGEN, GT

SUBJ: ECLA: 17TH SESSION FIRST PLENARY MEETING, MAY 2, 1977

1. PLENARY SESSIONS OF 17TH MEETING OF ECLA OPENED ON MAY 2
WITH SPEECHES FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM,
MINISTER OF FINANCE HURTADO (VENEZUELA), PRESIDENT
OF GUATEMALA LAUGERUD, ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS, AND
UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL CORREA. GENERALLY POSITIVE ATMOS-
PHERE CONTINUED FROM FIRST WEEK TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS.

2. WALDHEIM, IN GENERALLY PEDESTRIAN THIRD WORLD-TYPE
SPEECH, SAID NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS AT CROSSROADS. EXPRESSED
BELIEF GOVERNMENTS "ON WHICH SO MUCH DEPENDS" - APPARENTLY
REFERRING TO U.S. - WERE GIVING INCREASED ATTENTION TO

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DIALOGUE ISSUES. SECGEN DISCUSSED PRIMARILY COMMODITIES
AND INDEBTEDNESS, URGING EXPLORATION OF MULTILATERAL DEBT-
REFUNDING FACILITY. CALLED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ONE OF
HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN SEARCH FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER. COMMENDED ECLA FOR ITS FOCUS ON COLLECTIVE
SELF-RELIANCE AND ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

3. HURTADO RATHER DEFENSIVELY DESCRIBED OPEC PRICE ACTIONS AS HAVING LED WAY TO NEW BARGAINING STRENGTH FOR LDC'S. POINTED TO OPEC EFFORT TO MINIMIZE IMPACT OF OIL PRICES ON LDC'S. CALLED PARIS CIEC MEETING CRUCIAL TEST OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' POLITICAL WILL. CLOSED WITH STRONG STATEMENT ON "VITAL PRINCIPLES" OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY, CALLING IT LATIN AMERICA'S HISTORIC MISSION TO DEMONSTRATE GROWTH CAN BE COMBINED WITH EQUITY, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

4. LAUGERUD GAVE UNCHARACTERISTIC, HARD-HITTING SPEECH SUPPORTING LDC GOALS AND NEEDS OF SMALL COUNTRIES. SAID NATIONS TOO HAVE "HUMAN RIGHTS", INCLUDING THE RIGHT NOT TO BE EXPLOITED BY THE STRONGEST. CITED NEED TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE TO ACHIEVE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION.

5. IGLESIAS GAVE LENGTHY, CHALLENGING BUT UNCONTENTIOUS ADDRESS, RESTATING HIGHLIGHTS CONTAINED IN ECLA SECRETARIAT REPORT. REFERRED TO PROBLEMS OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION, ENORMOUS POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTED FOR YEAR 2000, AND THE TREMENDOUS PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT. SAID NIEO WAS GOAL OF GRADUAL NEGOTIATIONS, COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT. STATED THERE WAS A NEED TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES. CALLED LA MIDDLE-CLASS STATUS A "STATISTICAL ABSTRACTION". THE NEED FOR PUBLIC CAPITAL REMAINS STRONG. REFERRED TO INDEBTEDNESS PROBLEM, CITED SELA CONTRIBUTION, THE INTEGRATION MOVEMENT, AND THE NEED FOR ECLA TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER REGIONS.

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6. CORREA STRESSED THE NEED FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE. DEVOTED MOST OF SPEECH TO IMPORTANCE OF COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS AND PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR COMMON FUND, WHICH HE CALLED THE PIVOTAL ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING CHANGE. WHILE COMMON FUND ENDORSED BY LDC'S, OPEC COUNTRIES AND SOME DC'S, NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE. POINTED TO NEW INDICATION OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH OPEN AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE. MARCH MEETING, HOWEVER, WAS NOT TIMELY FOR MAKING PROGRESS. NOTED NEED TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS AMONG LDC'S ON CONCEPTS OF COMMON FUND. TOUCHED ON OTHER AREAS OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER - TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND NEED TO CONTROL RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES. ALSO CITED NEED FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE RESOURCES AND GREATER ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS, AND NOTED RISING PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN DC'S. WELCOMED GREATER COLLABORATION ECLA AND UNCTAD.

BOSTER.

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER.

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